per week from Kolkata and 32 flights per week from Guwahati to different cities and towns of North Eastern States.

(b) Private scheduled airlines *viz* Jet Airways, JetLite, Kingfisher Airlines, Kingfisher Red, Spicejet and Indigo operate 114 flights/Week from Kolkata and 52 flights/week from Guwahati to different cities and towns of North Eastern States.

(c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

(d) National Aviation Company of India Limited and its subsidiary Air India Charters Limited has placed orders for purchase of 111 state-of-art new aircraft, with which the old aircraft in their fleet will be gradually replaced.

Renovation of Guwahati airport

2348. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the component-wise progress made and target set for improvement as well as renovation of Lokpriya Gopi Nath Bordoloi (LGNB) Airport, Guwahati including the taxi parking, approach road as well as construction of Aero Bridge within the current financial year;

(b) the details of plan finalized, if any, for further strengthening and improvement of this airport; and

(c) the additional facilities created and proposed to be created to upgrade it to an international standard as well as to make it a functional regional hub of North Eastern Region (NER)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The works undertaken for modernization/improvement of Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoloi International (LGBI) Airport, Guwahati with their status are:

(i) Air/city side canopy-completed. (ii) VIP Lounge in arrival hall-Already completed. (iii) Development of approach road-Completed. (iv) Expansion of taxi parking area-Work completed to the extent of 95% with expected date of completion by end December 2008. (v) Installation of passenger boarding bridges-Expected date of completion by end March 2009. (vi) Extension of runway by 360 meters and construction of new apron with link taxiway-81% of the work completed and expected date of completion is end December 2008. (vii) Construction of isolation bay-50% of the work has been completed and expected date of completion is end March 2009.

(b) The works related to construction of parallel taxi track has been planned. In addition, expansion of existing apron requiring relocation of DVOR/Radar subject to transfer of land for this purpose by State Government has also been planned.

(c) The existing terminal building can handle both domestic and international operations. However, new apron to cater to aircraft parking requirements is under construction with expected date of completion by end December, 2008.

Cancellation of Delhi-Ahmedabad flight

2349. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for canceling regular evening flight from Delhi to Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that this measure has been taken to favour private Airlines, who may get more passengers and earn business; and

(c) whether his Ministry is aware about the difficulties faced by Members of Parliament from Gujarat and other passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India's evening flights on the Delhi-Ahmedabad route have not been achieving good occupancy levels and hence temporarily suspended.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Air India is reviewing the situation.

Utilisation of surplus land with airports

2350. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to utilise surplus land available near airports for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At most of the airports, the available land is either already taken up for aeronautical and related works or is committed therefor. However, in line with the international trend of increasing non-aeronautical revenue, the airport operators, from time to time, take up commercial exploitation of available land within the limits imposed by the applicable laws. Presently, Airports Authority of India has plans for city side development of select 24 non-metro airports *viz* Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Vizag, Trichy, Bhubanesawar, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Ranchi and Dimapur through Public Private Partnership (PPP). Further, Delhi International Airport Ltd. has plans to develop a Hospitality District at IGI Airport, New Delhi.